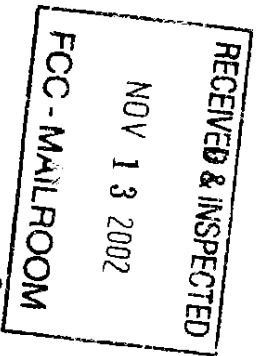


R. Cole
3521 Grantham N.
Selkirk CA 95472



Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th + SW
Washington, DC 20554

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October 21, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear FCC Chairman Michael Powell,

I **am** writing to urge you to strengthen, not repeal, the few remaining rules that prevent **near** total concentration of ownership in the clutches of a few corporations. The **current** domination of the radio, broadcast and newspaper industries by a handful of companies is **already** damaging **our** democracy. **Already** dramatically **loomed** over the past decade, ownership restrictions that, for example, keep a single television network **from owning stations** that broadcast to **more than 35** percent of the nation's homes or a single company from owning more **than** eight radio stations in the **same market, are** crucially important if we **are** to protect our nation **from** the **very** real **dangers** of media **monopolies**.

As America's Founding Fathers understood, a free, diverse **and** vigorous press is a necessary **bedrock** foundation for a functioning democracy. In recent decades, however, responsible news coverage and **the** presentation of a **broad** range of political views **have** become increasingly threatened. Corporate chains now control nearly all **radio and television stations**. Massive **budget** cutbacks for news departments, **the** dumbing-down of **political** coverage, and even dangerous demagoguery have become the norm in America's mainstream media.

Those private interests who **support** gutting the FCC's media ownership regulations point to new media avenues like cable television and the Internet. Here, **too**, however, we find the same handful of **familiar** names **dominating** what information **the** vast majority of **Americans** receive on a daily basis. **The** massive **telecommunications** lobby defends **repeal** of ownership regulations as a **source** of new business "efficiencies," yet it is the FCC's responsibility to defend the **rights** of **consumers** not corporations.

As part of your 90-day comment period, I **am** asking you to stand up for the **free** marketplace of ideas **supported** by a **free, diverse** and independent press by supporting **and** strengthening current **limits** on media ownership consolidation.

I **also** want to **urge** you in **the strongest** way to reach out to **ordinary** citizens to hear their views, rather than to the well-paid lobbyists of those who **stand** to benefit **financially** **from** changing the FCC's **rules**. I **look** forward to **hearing** where you stand **on this** important issue.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature: [illegible]
Handwritten address: 3500 [illegible] Hwy, [illegible] CA 95172